

To: CCILO News[]
Cc: []
From: CN=Mary Grady/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Fri 12/7/2012 2:47:41 PM
Subject: Cross-Cutting Issues News for December 7, 2012
[White House, EPA Prepare for Sequestration: 8.2 Percent Cut Possible](#)

[More »](#)

[Group Targets National Retailers, Others Over Flame Retardants](#)

[More »](#)

[Draft Texts for Climate Deals Unveiled as U.N. Talks Near End](#)

[More »](#)

[California Court Finds Review of San Diego Transport Plan Flawed](#)

[More »](#)

[Maine Considers Expansion of Ban on BPA in Children's Products](#)

[More »](#)

[More »](#)

[A-4](#)

[InsideEPA.com - Latest News](#)

[Fight Over PM Test Suit Dismissal](#)

[S. 3525](#)

[E&E Daily](#)

[plan](#)

[Greenwire](#)

[comments](#)

[analysis](#)

[Greenwire](#)

[report](#)

[Greenwire](#)

[list](#)

[AP/Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#)

[Read the full edition](#)

[1. WILDFIRES: For much of U.S., fire hazard lingers as drought persists](#)

[2. CARBON CAPTURE: Fires, urbanization to redraw carbon map of West](#)

[3. ARCTIC: Soot from burning tundra may be speeding up Greenland's ice melt](#)

[4. SCIENCE: Scholars duel over the entry of a man-made era](#)

[5. MARKETS: Calif. overstated demand for its inaugural cap-and-trade auction](#)

[6. SCIENCE: Researchers worry that Obama admin's travel restrictions may curb discoveries](#)

[7. NEGOTIATIONS: After an all-nighter, Doha talks veer toward an uncertain end](#)

[8. CITIES: Communities hunt for cash to upgrade local flood-control systems](#)

[9. ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Video companies agree to replace an electricity hog, saving taxpayers \\$1.5B](#)

[10. NATIONS: India protects its farmers' interests at Doha](#)

[11. MEDIA: Why TV weathercasters deny climate change](#)

[12. CAP AND TRADE: NASA's Hansen criticizes Calif. emissions-reduction system](#)

[13. BUSINESS: Climate change aid going to corporations, environmental organization says](#)

[Read the full edition](#)

[1. LNG: Export 'winners' go beyond U.S. borders](#)

[2. LOBBYING: Oil and gas industry needs to sell itself better -- advocates](#)

[3. OIL SHALE: Colo. county once again at odds with BLM development plan](#)

[4. HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: Pavillion driller blasts EPA contamination findings](#)

[5. ADVOCACY: 100 groups band together to ban fracking and drilling](#)

[6. BUSINESS: Better-than-expected results in Niobrara Shale boost Noble Energy's outlook](#)

[7. TECHNOLOGY: BP plans world's largest commercial supercomputer to find oil and gas](#)

[8. PEOPLE: Shale industry group announces 2013 board members](#)

[9. NATURAL GAS: River agency rejects call to consider pipelines' broad effects](#)

[10. PEOPLE: Top oil field services provider promotes 2 execs](#)

[11. ENERGY MARKETS: In a first for EIA, Brent favored over U.S. oil benchmarks](#)

- [12. COLORADO: County sets rules for behavior at hearings after fracking fracas](#)
[13. CHINA: State energy firms win blocks in second shale gas auction](#)
[14. ARCTIC DRILLING: Company could test new rules from Canada energy board](#)
[\(embedded image\)](#)
[\(embedded image\)](#)
[\(embedded image\)](#)
[\(embedded image\)](#)
[\(embedded image\)](#)
[\(embedded image\)](#)

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES NEWS

DECEMBER 7, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

White House, EPA Prepare for Sequestration; 8.2 Percent Cut Possible

The White House requests federal agencies, including EPA, to provide additional information and analysis on agency spending in advance of automatic spending cuts scheduled to go into effect Jan. 2. R. Steven Brown, executive director for the Environmental Council of the States, tells BNA that EPA is planning for an across-the-board 8.2 percent spending cut to all of its discretionary accounts if sequestration goes into effect. ... [More »](#)

Group Targets National Retailers, Others Over Flame Retardants

A California-based environmental organization threatens to sue numerous manufacturers and national retailers of sleeping mats, mattresses, changing pads, and other products for infants and children for allegedly failing to warn of high levels of a flame retardant known as TDCPP, or chlorinated Tris. The Center for Environmental Health also notifies two retailers and a manufacturer of household furniture with foam cushions of an alleged failure to warn about the chemical as required under California's Proposition 65. ... [More »](#)

Draft Texts for Climate Deals Unveiled as U.N. Talks Near End

With one day remaining in U.N. climate talks, negotiators continue to sort through the latest draft texts needed to extend Kyoto Protocol commitments, but make only incremental progress on language to advance a broader 2020 global pact. A third negotiating track launched in 2007 in Bali, Indonesia—which the United States argues is no longer needed given that all countries are now working together toward the 2020 accord—"is a procedural mess," according to one U.S. observer. ... [More »](#)

California Court Finds Review of San Diego Transport Plan Flawed

A California Superior Court rules that the San Diego Association of Governments did not adequately consider the impact of greenhouse gas emissions in developing its combined regional transportation plan and sustainable communities strategy. The court says the case is the first to challenge a regional transportation plan/sustainable communities strategy plan under the California Communities and Climate Protection Act (S.B. 375), which empowered the state to set emissions reduction targets for all metropolitan planning organizations. ... [More »](#)

Maine Considers Expansion of Ban on BPA in Children's Products

Maine environmental officials begin considering a proposal to expand a state law banning the use of bisphenol A in children's products. The Board of Environmental Protection, a rulemaking panel, will decide whether to adopt a citizens' petition, endorsed by environmental groups, to broaden the existing prohibition of BPA to include packaging used for baby formula, baby food, and toddler food. Under a state law that took effect Jan. 1, the sale of baby bottles, sippy cups, and other reusable food and beverage containers that contain BPA is prohibited. ... [More »](#)

ALSO IN THE NEWS

CLIMATE CHANGE: Local governments are adapting to climate change impacts by improving stormwater systems, planting trees to lower temperatures, and undertaking other efforts, local government representatives say. ... [More »](#)

ENERGY: State Department may issue Keystone XL environmental review 'soon' A-4

Latest Blogs

Fight Over PM Test Suit Dismissal

A free-market group is fighting EPA's request for a federal district court to dismiss the organization's suit that seeks to bar the agency's tests exposing . . .

PUBLIC LANDS:

Tester says sportsmen's package 'on life support'

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Friday, December 7, 2012

Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) yesterday said his package of hunting, fishing and conservation bills is on its last breaths as senators tend to a panoply of other bills in the waning weeks of the 112th Congress.

Tester's S. 3525 is no longer opposed by Republicans since an agreement was reached to correct budget violations that sidelined the bill in late November.

But the bill faces long, if not impossible, odds of finding floor time before the chamber adjourns for the year, and a unanimous consent request for the package would almost surely be blocked by two or more of Tester's Democratic colleagues.

"It's on life support," Tester told E&E Daily yesterday. "We're going to continue to look at options for the sportsmen's package."

An aide for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) did not dismiss the possibility that the package could be brought up on the floor, but conceded that it is competing with several other high-profile bills.

Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Ben Cardin (D-Md.) have pledged to block the package as currently written over language barring U.S. EPA from regulating lead in ammunition or fishing tackle, which they argued is a threat to wildlife and to humans who consume meat killed with lead bullets.

"Not going to happen," Cardin said yesterday, days after he held a press conference with Boxer to warn of the risks of lead ammunition to military personnel (E&E Daily, Dec. 4).

Their views are backed by some government scientists, bird advocates and environmental groups, particularly the Center for Biological Diversity, which this week posted ads in Las Vegas urging Reid to block passage of the bill's lead provisions.

But stripping the lead provision from the package would be a "deal breaker," said Susan Recce, director of conservation, wildlife and natural resources at the National Rifle Association, whose support of the package is crucial for many Republicans in Congress.

"Boxer's pretty dug in on not letting the lead provision move," said one conservation lobbyist. "There just doesn't appear to be a procedural way to move forward."

Another option would be to attach the Tester package to other moving legislation, as Tester unsuccessfully proposed last week with the defense authorization bill. But in doing so, Reid would be running over Boxer, who leads the Environment and Public Works Committee and is one of his stronger allies.

The package's late-session struggles came as a shock to sportsmen's groups, which had called it the biggest piece of hunting and angling legislation in a generation.

The bill includes Republican and Democratic measures to conserve wetlands, expand funding for shooting ranges and extend a decade-old law that allows federal agencies to conserve sensitive habitats using revenue from the sales of lower-value federal lands, among more than a dozen other provisions.

"We remain enormously frustrated," said Vaughn Collins, director of government affairs for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, which has lobbied for the bill along with the NRA, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy and dozens of other organizations.

The bill on two procedural votes earlier this session received 84 and 92 votes in favor of passage. An up-or-down vote on the measure -- amendments and other political factors notwithstanding -- would likely garner support from the vast majority of the Senate.

Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) yesterday said fixing the budget issue Republicans had objected to was a "huge part of the equation" and that passage now boils down to appeasing only a small number of Democrats.

"We still have some issues with our own members," said Begich, whose bill to allow the Interior Department to raise new revenues from duck stamps to conserve waterfowl habitat is included in the Tester bill. "But knowing that the minority is OK, that may get us to a [unanimous consent] potential."

CLIMATE:

Local governments seek federal aid for planning, adaptation

Emily Yehle, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, December 6, 2012

Cities and counties are at the forefront of preparing for climate change, but they will need significant financial help to effectively battle the effects of extreme weather, according to Local Governments for Sustainability, or ICLEI.

ICLEI joined the World Wildlife Fund today on a call with reporters to emphasize the need for planning and investment as droughts, storms and floods continue to cost the nation billions of dollars each year.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association has said 2012 is on track to be the warmest year on record for the United States -- a fact that the groups say is energizing local officials to take action before the federal government.

"Washington is not leading on the issue of climate change," said Keya Chatterjee, the WWF's director of international climate policy. "They've really abandoned these local governments."

Indeed, local officials face an uphill battle to wrest funds from a Congress looking to cut the budget and pay down the deficit. But Chatterjee argued that city and county governments have "stepped up" to the challenge and are taking steps to upgrade infrastructure and prepare for the worst.

Locally, government agencies are also starting to work together when in the past such collaboration was rare, said Brian Holland, the climate program director at ICLEI.

"We're starting to see -- and we need to see more -- collaboration among emergency managers, public works and engineering professions, city planners, and the environmental profession," he said, adding, "We need to see more collaboration between local governments and the federal government."

In a recently released "fact sheet," ICLEI highlights 17 cities that have taken steps to deal with problems associated with extreme weather and climate change. Among them is Norfolk, Va., which has seen a sea-level rise of 14.5 inches over the last century and faces increasing floods.

City officials are thus implementing a strategy to handle projected flooding issues. That includes installing more stormwater pumps, elevating public buildings, and working with federal, state and regional stakeholders.

The city has been more successful than some others in drawing federal funding, thanks to the fact that it has long been a port for the military and is home to Norfolk Naval Station. But on today's call, Denise Thompson, the city's environmental protection programs manager, emphasized that money will be a main concern going forward.

"The costs are really high to do what needs to be done," Thompson said. "There's really not a way for local governments to do it alone."

Glen Hadwen, the environmental programs manager for Miami -- which faces sea-level rise and more extreme hurricanes -- agreed, adding that local officials are struggling just to operate day-to-day services.

"This is a huge issue, and we definitely need more support to be able to address this because a lot of what we do here is really being pared back to essential services we can provide today, and unfortunately we don't have much money for these types of projects," Hadwen said.

ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Timber industry warns spotted owl plan will crimp Northwest logging

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, December 6, 2012

An Interior Department plan to nearly double the acreage protected for northern spotted owls will hamper plans to increase logging harvests in the Pacific Northwest, according to the region's main timber group.

The plan unveiled late last month by the Fish and Wildlife Service would designate about 9.6 million acres of critical habitat on mostly federal lands in Northern California, Oregon and Washington, a significant increase over a George W. Bush administration plan in 2008 to designate 5.3 million acres of habitat that was later found to be tainted by political meddling (Greenwire, Nov. 21). The Obama plan won cautious praise from environmentalists who said it marked the end of a "dark chapter" in which politics trumped science-based decisionmaking.

But timber groups, lawmakers and some county officials warned that the new habitat designations will discourage the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management from ramping up timber sales in rural communities that face high unemployment and expiring federal aid.

"It will have a devastating impact on the communities in Oregon and the health of the forests in Oregon," said Ann Forest Burns, vice president of the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) in Portland. "We have agencies that will avoid managing just because it's critical habitat. ... It's a de facto setting aside."

Under the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies must consult with FWS before authorizing or funding activities that could destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Critics say consultations gum up the permitting process and open the door to environmental lawsuits.

AFRC warned that the new rule is based on flawed modeling and includes lands the owl never used or that are not essential to its recovery. In addition, spotted owls face greater threats from wildfires and increasing competition from the barred owl, a larger, more aggressive species that arrived from the east, it said.

"It's not the housing," Burns said, referring to the owl's old-growth habitat, which the Northwest Forest Plan has largely protected.

"It's that the neighborhood has gotten really bad."

With limited resources, federal agencies may choose to concentrate timber projects outside of critical habitat, Burns said, meaning fewer lands will see greater impacts. Burns said BLM has indicated that the habitat plan will inform new resource management plans that will dictate timber sales on more than 2 million acres in western Oregon.

AFRC challenged the Bush administration's critical habitat rule in 2008 and is still reviewing the Obama plan, Burns said.

"We are reading it carefully and consulting with our legal counsel to see if they have any advice for us," she said.

'Sweet spot'

Federal officials insist fears over timber declines are overblown.

In a break from the Bush habitat rule, the new FWS plan promotes "ecologically sustainable" logging within owl habitat that federal scientists argue will gird forests against pests and severe wildfires.

Such harvests could consist of thinning projects to promote old growth, which for several years have been the status quo in the Northwest. But in some cases, FWS is encouraging patches of clearcuts to mimic natural disturbances and increase wildlife diversity.

Jerome Perez, BLM's state director in Oregon and Washington, said the rule hits a "sweet spot" that will balance conservation of the owl with the needs of timber-dependent Northwest communities.

"We look forward to this continued collaboration as we carry forward the concept of active management and spotted owl conservation into our project and land-use planning," he said.

Still, in comments to Fish and Wildlife, BLM, which manages about 2.4 million acres of western Oregon forests, said new habitat designations on its land could add administrative burdens and may have minimal conservation benefits.

"While we understand the regulatory requirement to designate critical habitat, there are additional administrative burdens associated with assessing and consulting on projects designated as critical habitat," the agency said in July.

FWS said it rejected BLM's request to remove 300,000 acres in western Oregon from the final critical habitat rule.

It is unclear what impact the new rule will have on timber harvest levels, which plummeted under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan and are never expected to fully recover. Harvest levels fell from 4.5 billion board feet to a target of 1 billion board feet on the 24 million acres of affected federal lands, according to AFRC.

But only about half a billion board feet of the projected harvests has actually gone forward as a result of newly listed endangered species, lawsuits over other at-risk species and opposition to old-growth logging.

A final economic analysis of the FWS plan said that there is "considerable uncertainty" about future timber sales but that harvest levels under the new rule could range from a 20 percent decrease from current levels to a 10 percent increase.

Enviro praise

Environmental groups were largely supportive of the new plan, though many expressed concern with the agency's decision to exclude 4.3 million acres of proposed federal, state and private lands and its continued emphasis on timber cutting within the owl's habitat.

"The timber issue is still there, and I don't think anyone is happy with it," said Brett Hartl, senior policy fellow for the Society for Conservation Biology in Washington, D.C.

In addition, by focusing habitat mostly on federal lands in the late successional reserves, "maybe, at best, we're talking about preserving the status quo of the species," Hartl said, "which is not a good position because its population is declining rapidly because of other threats."

But Hartl said he's pleased the agency appears to have softened some of the language in the final rule regarding active management. The final rule also walked back a 500-acre threshold in the proposed rule that dictated when BLM and the Forest Service are supposed to consult with FWS, he said.

The final plan also does a better job of explaining that the critical habitat rule is consistent with the protections in the Northwest Forest Plan.

Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said that he was happy to see protections expanded on federal lands but that many of the private and state lands are "absolutely essential" to the spotted owl's recovery. Private lands in the Redwood Coast region, for example, are essential because owls are able to nest in younger trees there and productivity is consistently higher than in other parts of the range, environmentalists said.

"Leaving them out of the final rule is a big mistake," said Andrew Orahoske, conservation director for the Environmental Protection Information Center.

But Andy Stahl, executive director of the Eugene, Ore.-based group Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, said he does not believe the critical habitat rule will have a significant impact on timber harvests.

That's because FWS has not relied on the "adverse modification" criteria to determine whether to initiate consultation on timber projects, relying instead on whether a project will jeopardize the species' survival, Stahl said.

"The only logging that will continue to be allowed is what is allowed under the Northwest Forest Plan," he said.

In addition, Stahl noted that two previous critical habitat plans in 1992 and 2008 did not have any significant effect on logging levels.

"The mainstream media makes it out that we're doubling the amount of critical habitat, which will have a catastrophic effect on logging level on public lands," he said. "And the fact is, it doesn't matter if you double or triple or quadruple it. It won't have any effect."

URANIUM:

Wyo., enviros at odds over new mine, sage grouse protections

Manuel Quinones, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, December 6, 2012

The state of Wyoming is intervening in federal litigation that could become a key case in the fight between mining companies and conservationists over sage grouse protections.

At issue is a lawsuit filed by the Laramie-based Biodiversity Conservation Alliance and the Western Mining Action Project last month challenging Bureau of Land Management approval of Ur-Energy Inc.'s Lost Creek uranium mining project in Sweetwater County, Wyo.

Wyoming Attorney General Greg Phillips (D), at the urging of Gov. Matt Mead (R), filed papers this week to advocate for the project, which also needed state permits.

"Wyoming has put a lot of resources into making sure this mine operates in a safe and responsible manner," Mead said in a statement yesterday. "This project provides energy for the nation, jobs for Wyoming and revenue to local, state and federal governments."

The Lost Creek mine, which includes a portion of state land, will create 160 jobs and generate more than \$19 million in severance taxes, Mead said in a news release. The company broke ground in October.

Ur-Energy CEO Wayne Heili said, "Thanks to the advanced preparation of the Ur-Energy team, we have been able to initiate construction without delay following receipt of our final regulatory approval."

The groups filed their lawsuit last month, hoping to halt construction. They say BLM failed to take the required "hard look" at wildlife impacts and potential pollution.

The project is a so-called in-situ recovery or in-situ leach site. The process generally involves pumping water, oxygen and sodium bicarbonate to free uranium underground and then sucking it to the surface.

"In the case of Lost Creek, [BLM] has approved a project inside a sage grouse core area that violates the most important protections that are supposed to be applied there," said Erik Molvar, biologist and head of the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance. The groups say regulators approved too many wells and too much road construction for Lost Creek, which will jeopardize sage grouse habitats.

"This is the first major test to see whether the core area protections that have been drawn up in state and federal policies will have any on-the-ground benefit for the sage grouse," Molvar said.

Separately, Ur-Energy said BLM had accepted a request to review its record of decision but refused to block construction. A preliminary injunction motion against the project is pending in U.S. District Court in Wyoming.

Industry groups have complained about the legality of federal sage grouse protection plans (Greenwire, March 26). And Mead believes the mine complies with the state's Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection Executive Order.

"Work on permitting this project started over five years ago and I believe state agencies and Ur-Energy have done sound work to protect Wyoming's water and wildlife," Mead said. "This includes mitigating impacts to sage-grouse."

Other projects

Uranium prices have remained sluggish for some time, currently standing at around \$42 per pound, according to Ux Consulting Co. The market situation even prompted mining giant BHP Billiton Ltd. to reduce focus on uranium extraction.

Still, producers in the United States are predicting growth in the market. Several other uranium mining projects are moving forward and prompting environmental concerns.

Uranium Energy Corp. announced yesterday that it had received all necessary permits for its Goliad in-situ recovery project in south Texas, including approvals from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and U.S. EPA.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission last month issued a draft environmental impact statement for Powertech Uranium Corp.'s Dewey-Burdock project in South Dakota. NRC is also considering a license for Strata Energy Inc.'s Ross in-situ mine project in Crook County, Wyo.

BLM, also last month, released a draft environmental impact statement for Cameco Corp.'s Gas Hills in-situ project in Wyoming's Fremont and Natrona counties.

And in Virginia, state lawmakers are poised to debate legislation to lift a uranium mining ban with the backing of groups like the Heritage Foundation and the Heartland Institute. State Sen. John Watkins (R) has already announced his intention to push for consideration.

KEYSTONE XL:

Enviros blast pipeline companies ahead of Obama's decision

Nick Juliano, E&E reporters

Published: Thursday, December 6, 2012

This story was updated at 3:18 p.m. EST.

As pressure mounts from both sides ahead of President Obama's crucial decision on whether to approve a controversial international oil pipeline, activists are taking direct aim at the two largest pipeline companies in Canada.

A new report released today by the National Wildlife Federation accuses TransCanada Corp. -- which is behind the proposed Alberta-to-Texas Keystone XL pipeline -- of abusing eminent domain powers, not properly consulting with American Indian tribes

and obscuring its safety record. The report also takes aim at Enbridge Inc., which operated the pipeline that burst in Kalamazoo, Mich., in 2010 and has a variety of other lines transmitting oil from Alberta's oil sands.

The report comes as NWF and other groups continue to urge Obama to block construction of the Keystone pipeline, which they say would devastate the climate because of high greenhouse gas emissions generated through extraction of the oil sands crude it would carry as well as local environmental concerns in Nebraska.

A TransCanada spokesman, Shawn Howard, said the report was little more than a rehash of the same arguments pipeline opponents have long been making, and he stressed that the company complies with all of its legal requirements when dealing with landowners and others affected by a pipeline.

"This isn't a report. This is basically a brochure that has a series of stories in it that this same group of activists and lawyers put out," Howard said. "It's about their desire to end consumption of fossil fuels; it's got nothing to do with our pipeline."

Obama is expected to decide whether to approve the pipeline around the end of March 2013 -- a decision that environmentalists and industry both say will provide insight into his plans for a second term.

"Clearly Keystone doesn't fit in with creating a legacy on climate," said Joe Mendelson, NWF's director of climate and energy policy.

EPA:

Agency awards \$1.2M in enviro justice grants

Emily Yehle, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, December 6, 2012

Fifty nonprofit and tribal groups will soon embark on various projects aimed at addressing the environmental burdens of low-income and minority communities, after U.S. EPA announced today the winners of \$1.2 million in environmental justice grants. The grants -- awarded by the agency every year -- provide up to \$30,000 for projects that tend to be educational in nature. This year, they include a community awareness campaign on the hazardous chemicals in nail salons, a study on the vulnerabilities of the septic system in a New Jersey community and the promotion of safe pesticide use in low-income housing.

Lisa Garcia, EPA's associate assistant administrator for environmental justice, said the grants will enable groups to "educate residents about environmental issues that may impact their health, collect data about local environmental conditions, and work to address environmental justice issues in their communities."

Garcia added in a statement, "EPA's environmental justice grants provide important support to community-based organizations working to advance environmental justice at the local level."

The grant program is the type of government spending that Republicans love to hate, especially as Congress looks to cut budgets. Last year, EPA took some criticism over a \$25,000 award to a dance troupe (Greenwire, Dec. 13, 2011).

Nothing so eccentric appears on this year's list of winners. Projects mostly focus on common problems in low-income and minority communities, such as polluted waterways and poor air quality.

EPA plans to increase the award pool next year to \$1.5 million. Applications for fiscal 2013 grants are due Jan. 7.

FLORIDA:

Wildlife commission mulls protections for fish

Published: Thursday, December 6, 2012

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is considering new protections for designated saltwater game and sport fish species.

The commission agreed yesterday to draft a proposed rule in the coming months. It will decide which species to designate as game fish at its February meeting.

A sport fish designation would offer more protection by allowing only catch-and-release fishing for those species with no commercial or recreational harvesting. Another possibility is to make commercial harvesting, possession or sales of designated fish species illegal (AP/Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Dec. 6). -- JE

ClimateWire -- Fri., December 7, 2012 -- Read the full edition

1. **WILDFIRES:** For much of U.S., fire hazard lingers as drought persists

An unusually late fire season may bring coal to more than a few Christmases this year. Ongoing drought conditions across much of the West, Midwest and South have left ample fuel for ignition, keeping firefighters on edge and raising alerts in a number of states. The year appears poised to claim third place in the annals of worst fire seasons on record, following burns totaling 9.8 million acres in 2006 and 9.3 million acres in 2007.

2. **CARBON CAPTURE:** Fires, urbanization to redraw carbon map of West

As fires become more frequent and less controllable, they will impair the West's ability to absorb carbon and slow climate change, concludes a new analysis of the western United States' landscape.

TODAY'S STORIES

3. **ARCTIC:** Soot from burning tundra may be speeding up Greenland's ice melt

4. **SCIENCE:** Scholars duel over the entry of a man-made era

5. **MARKETS:** Calif. overstated demand for its inaugural cap-and-trade auction

6. SCIENCE: Researchers worry that Obama admin's travel restrictions may curb discoveries
7. NEGOTIATIONS: After an all-nighter, Doha talks veer toward an uncertain end
8. CITIES: Communities hunt for cash to upgrade local flood-control systems
9. ENERGY EFFICIENCY: Video companies agree to replace an electricity hog, saving taxpayers \$1.5B
10. NATIONS: India protects its farmers' interests at Doha
11. MEDIA: Why TV weathercasters deny climate change
12. CAP AND TRADE: NASA's Hansen criticizes Calif. emissions-reduction system
13. BUSINESS: Climate change aid going to corporations, environmental organization says

EnergyWire -- Fri., December 7, 2012 -- Read the full edition

1. LNG: Export 'winners' go beyond U.S. borders

Natural gas analysts responded positively yesterday to the Department of Energy's release of a report that underscored the economic benefits of exporting liquefied natural gas, highlighting some of the broad swath of export, production, manufacturing and transport companies poised to benefit from an expanded industry.

2. LOBBYING: Oil and gas industry needs to sell itself better -- advocates

LONG BEACH, CALIF. -- Oil and gas companies must launch an aggressive public relations campaign to counteract the efforts of groups opposing exploration, an industry lobbyist argued this week.

THIS MORNING'S STORIES

3. OIL SHALE: Colo. county once again at odds with BLM development plan
4. HYDRAULIC FRACTURING: Pavillion driller blasts EPA contamination findings
5. ADVOCACY: 100 groups band together to ban fracking and drilling
6. BUSINESS: Better-than-expected results in Niobrara Shale boost Noble Energy's outlook
7. TECHNOLOGY: BP plans world's largest commercial supercomputer to find oil and gas
8. PEOPLE: Shale industry group announces 2013 board members
9. NATURAL GAS: River agency rejects call to consider pipelines' broad effects
10. PEOPLE: Top oil field services provider promotes 2 execs
11. ENERGY MARKETS: In a first for EIA, Brent favored over U.S. oil benchmarks
12. COLORADO: County sets rules for behavior at hearings after fracking fracas
13. CHINA: State energy firms win blocks in second shale gas auction
14. ARCTIC DRILLING: Company could test new rules from Canada energy board

Brought to you by the Office of General Counsel Law Library